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Selected Speeches and News Releases

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Remarks

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Public Affairs

**Prepared for delivery by Secretary of Agriculture, Edward Madigan,
before the International Conference on Nutrition, Rome, Italy,
December 7, 1992**

Mr. Chairman, fellow ministers and delegates.

For nearly three decades we have had the food to meet the nutritional needs of every man, woman, and child on earth. And yet, hunger still plagues many people. Fortunately, through efforts like ours today, we have made progress against hunger and malnutrition.

In 1969, more than one person in three suffered from hunger. Today it's one in five. That progress comes despite a world population which climbs by nearly 100 million annually.

In spite of these encouraging trends, nearly 800 million people still suffer from hunger or fail to get the nutrition they need to live healthy, productive lives. The toll that hunger and malnutrition exacts is cruel.

Every hour of every day, another 1,000 children are lost. In Somalia alone, one person dies every few minutes. And each year, the lives of tens of millions of people are cut short by foodborne or chronic diseases caused by unsafe food or poor diet. It is 1992. Today, we have the food and the technical skills to end this suffering and even countries with limited financial resources are making progress in human nutrition. Sri Lanka, China, and Indonesia—all countries with low per capita incomes—have made remarkable strides in overcoming hunger and malnutrition. They have curbed hunger by making it a political priority to do so.

If we are to help the hungry as well as those who suffer from diet-related disease, all of us must make nutrition a political priority.

What's more, while each nation must take responsibility for improving the nutrition of its own people, the international community also must be ready to offer help, especially to the victims of drought, disasters, and political strife.

For many years, the United States has led the world in offering this help. We have contributed roughly \$45 billion in food aid and tens of billions of dollars more in other assistance—much of it devoted to eliminating the root causes of hunger and malnutrition. However, our efforts and those of others will succeed only if the international community shows the political will and

perseverance to aid the victims of violence in places like Somalia, the southern Sudan, and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Recent U.S. aid to Somalia, southern Africa, and the former Soviet Union and Yugoslavia are examples of how the American people have reached out to prevent starvation and suffering. In the past five years, we have provided more than 40 percent of the food aid for African refugees and displaced persons.

And we continue to help today. I am pleased to announce that the United States Department of Agriculture will donate, through the World Food Program, an additional \$32 million in food aid to help drought victims in sub-Saharan Africa. We are now providing roughly three-quarters of the food aid for southern Africa as it struggles through an historic drought.

Beyond these dramatic emergency needs, there are difficult political and economic steps all nations must take to ensure a stable food supply into the next century. First among them must be a continued commitment to a successful end to the GATT talks, now underway. By dismantling the barriers to world agricultural trade, we can strengthen agriculture worldwide, especially in developing countries. Once we adopt a Global Declaration and Plan of Action on Nutrition, each nation here will have made a political commitment, both to work with one another to improve nutrition through the UN system and to develop its own national nutritional plan. In the United States, we already have set ambitious health goals for the year 2000. Promoting nutrition is one important way we hope to achieve them. For example, we are determined to reduce low birth weight and infant mortality even further, and to reduce diet-related disease.

Reaching nutrition goals requires more than government help, however. Sound nutrition is first and foremost an individual responsibility. This is particularly true in societies where food is more abundant and food choices are wider. We do not categorize foods as good or bad, but there are bad diets.

It is government's role to work with educators, the food industry, and public health and consumer groups to inform people about what constitutes a nutritious and healthful diet. It is up to the individual to put that information to good use.

We also need to recognize the crucial role of the family in nutrition—a role that governments, industry, and educators cannot play. Our knowledge of basic nutrition begins in the family and it is here that women are so vital. Nutrition programs must begin with the family.

The United States focuses first on the family, both in our domestic nutrition programs and in the assistance we offer to other nations through our Agency for International Development. Effective measures to end maternal

and infant malnutrition, promote breast feeding, educate school children on sound nutrition—all of these must be designed with the family in mind.

In the United States, we have found that targeting nutrition assistance is crucial and beneficial. We have given special attention to the needs of those who are sometimes isolated in society by language, culture, or economics—this includes indigenous groups, recent immigrants, minorities and the poor.

Strengthening nutrition among pregnant women, infants and young children has proven a very effective strategy, and it is one we recommend strongly to other nations. All told, this past year alone we spent \$28 billion on targeted food assistance and nutrition programs.

As the nations of the world devise nutrition plans, we need to look both at target populations needing assistance and specific diseases requiring special attention. On a global basis, micronutrient deficiency diseases continue to scar hundreds of millions of lives. The best approach to ending these deficiencies is a balanced diet, but we need to be flexible and innovative. A combination of food fortification, supplements, and education can help us lessen or eradicate these diseases.

Ending vitamin A, iodine, and iron deficiency is within our grasp. We have the technical capacity. We can prevent childhood blindness, mental and physical retardation, or death caused by these deficiency diseases.

To bring energy and resources to this campaign, I am announcing that our Agency for International Development is launching a new \$50 million program called “Opportunities for Micronutrient Interventions.”

In the best tradition of our development and humanitarian programs, it will combine new technology, training, and communication techniques to improve the nutritional health of those who still suffer from micronutrient deficiencies.

My own interest in nutrition has centered on education. Without sound nutrition education, we will lose the battle. In the United States we have worked to develop dietary guidelines, educational tools like our new and innovative Food Guide Pyramid, and improved nutrition labeling—all with the goal of educating our citizens about the benefits of good nutrition.

In the last few decades we have greatly expanded our nutrition knowledge, and we have shared that information with the public through dietary recommendations. We have had some success. For instance, we believe changes in eating habits in the United States have contributed to the significant decrease in cardiovascular disease. We can make a difference in the health of our people if we offer nutrition education that is based on science and reflects a consensus among nutrition and public health experts. What sometimes troubles and frustrates many consumers is that we have no

final answers on the ideal diet. But nutrition is a complex and evolving science, needing further research. I hope this conference will lead to greater cooperation and better ways for us to share research findings.

Working together we can improve nutrition worldwide. We can take the political and economic steps necessary to keep our world food supply growing. We can increase research, conquer micronutrient deficiency diseases, strengthen food aid, and improve the quality and safety of the food we eat.

We are working daily on these issues, and I trust our new President will continue on this path.

Together, we can do all these things and more. And there is no better time to begin than now and no better place than here.

Thank you very much.

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News Releases

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Public Affairs

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IMPORTED WEEVIL LAYING WASTE TO THISTLE WEED IN TEXAS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3—Musk thistle in Texas may be losing out to a petite Mediterranean insect called the flowerhead weevil that has finally taken hold five years after its introduction to the Lone Star state.

A U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist, Paul E. Boldt, said the weevil's population has "just exploded," adapting apparently to its new life in the state. Weevil larvae damaged 50 to 90 percent of all musk thistle flowerheads on research plots last year, causing seeds not to germinate, he said.

Musk thistle has been the bane of ranchers. Thistle plants can grow to seven feet tall and take over large sections of pasture, said Boldt, an entomologist in Temple, Texas, for USDA's Agricultural Research Service. Spiny leaves and flowerheads on the thistle keep wary cattle from grazing anywhere nearby.

What's more, the weed crowds out grasses and competes for water along streambanks, he said. A single plant puts out as many as 5,200 seeds a year, guaranteeing a fresh infestation the next year, he said.

"In the past 10 years, the weed has spread from two primary areas—Dallas and west of Austin—over a large portion of central Texas," he said. "Across the United States, it's been a problem in 26 states."

But help has come from the flowerhead weevil, studied by Boldt while he was stationed from 1974 to 1981 in Rome, Italy, at a biological pest control laboratory operated by USDA's research agency. ARS moved the lab to a new biocontrol complex in Montpellier, France in 1991.

"I was in Rome doing a survey of insects that attack musk thistle," he said. "One of the insects was the flowerhead weevil, a small brown weevil about 5/8ths of an inch long that had been released previously in other parts of the United States with good success."

Boldt subsequently got a chance to find out how well the weevil would do in Texas after he joined the Temple lab in 1982. He said the weevil made its debut in the state at Kerrville in 1987.

Over the first four or five years “it appeared to be just hanging on,” he said. “Then, in 1991, the population just exploded. We think it spent those early years adapting to the environment.”

These days, though, the weevil has found its niche—and the musk thistle’s weak spot.

“The female weevil lays about 200 eggs in the thistle’s flowerhead, and the emerging larvae feed just under the seed, in the receptacle,” explained Boldt. “As a result, seeds don’t form normally and can’t germinate. The insects become so dense that virtually 100 percent of the seeds are killed and the young larvae must feed in the stem in order to survive.”

However, flowerhead weevils pose no threat on their own, he emphasized. We’ve done a lot of testing and they’re very specifically interested in thistles alone,” he said.

Boldt said he and Texas A&M University entomologist John Jackman are planning a field day in April 1993 at which Extension Service personnel will be invited to Kerrville to collect weevils to take back to their own thistle-infested counties.

NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact Paul E. Boldt, Grassland Protection Research, USDA, ARS, Temple, Texas 76502. Telephone: (817) 770-6530

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WHEAT, BARLEY, OATS PRODUCERS TO RECEIVE DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan announced today that approximately \$950 million in deficiency and 0/92 payments will be made to eligible producers of the 1992 wheat, barley and oats crops.

Wheat producers will receive about \$840 million, barley producers about \$100 million (before assessment) and oats producers about \$10 million. Madigan said the payments will be made in cash through Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service county offices. Payments will be made beginning Dec. 14.

Deficiency payments are made under the 1992 wheat, barley and oats programs when the national weighted average market prices received by producers during the first five months of the marketing year (June through October) are below established target price levels.

Deficiency payment rates are based upon the difference between the target price for the commodity and the higher of the five-month average market price or the basic price support rate. Producers who received advance deficiency payments will have their 5-month payment reduced by the amount of the advance.

Calculation of 5-Month Deficiency Payment Rates

	Wheat	Barley	Oats
	(\$ per bushel)		
A. Target Price	4.00	2.36	1.45
B. Basic Loan Rate	2.58	1.64	1.03
C. 5-Month Market Price	3.19	1.80	1.28
D. 5-Month Def Payment Rate (A-C)	0.81	0.56	0.17
E. Advance Deficiency Payment Rate	0.325	0.175	0.075
F. Net 5-Month Def. Payment Rate (D-E)	0.485	0.385	0.095

Barley deficiency payments will be reduced for producers subject to the malting barley assessment. The reduction will be five percent of the state (if available) or national weighted average malting barley price received by producers for the first five months of the marketing year. The state and national malting barley prices and assessment rates are:

Five-Month Price Assessment Rate
(\$ per bushel)

Idaho	3.28	.164
Minnesota	2.00	.10
Montana	3.24	.162
North Dakota	1.88	.094
South Dakota	2.00	.10
U.S.	2.39	.1195

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USDA UPDATES IMPORTED FIRE ANT QUARANTINE RULES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced it is simplifying and updating its quarantine and interstate movement regulations to control the spread of imported fire ants.

“The revisions will update outmoded provisions, ease unnecessary trade restrictions, and promote compliance without increasing the risk of interstate spread of the pest,” said B. Glen Lee, deputy administrator for plant protection and quarantine in USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

The imported fire ant invaded this country from South America in 1918 and has spread to an area stretching from southern North Carolina to central Texas.

“We believe the ants could thrive in other areas of the country, and our quarantine of certain host materials retards their spread,” Lee said.

The major changes in the regulations will:

—Specify that the only species of imported fire ants covered by the regulations are *Solenopsis invicta* and *Solenopsis richteri* and their hybrids. Other *Solenopsis* species exist in the United States, but they are native to this country and are not considered to be of serious concern to agriculture.

—Expand the quarantine area to include portions of nine counties and all of six other counties in Georgia.

—Consolidate the three types of permits authorizing interstate movement of regulated articles into a single permit. Requirements for obtaining permits and for moving regulated articles would remain unchanged.

—Combine the list of regulated articles and the list of exemptions into a single, easily referenced listing. Readers will be able to see at a glance, for example, that soil in general is regulated while commercially packaged potting soil is exempted.

—Expand the exemption for potted plants to include not only plants kept in private homes but also those kept in office environments, as long as they are not for sale.

—Ease restrictions on the interstate movement of hay and straw, exempting baled hay and straw that has not been stored in direct contact with the ground.

—Delete distinctions that divide the quarantined area into regulated areas, suppressive areas and generally infested areas. These distinctions were

necessary when APHIS used three different approaches toward controlling the pest. At present, however, APHIS has a single, uniform approach in preventing spread, and a single type of quarantine suffices.

“We undertook eradication of the imported fire ant on a limited basis between 1958 and 1977,” Lee said. “We stopped when the chemicals used for eradication were judged environmentally unsafe. A good substitute has not been developed. We now control long-distance spread of the fire ant mainly by regulating interstate movement of goods at risk for spreading the infestation.”

The proposed revisions were published in the Oct. 30, 1991, Federal Register, and written comments were accepted for two months. The final regulations are scheduled for publication in the Dec. 4 Federal Register as Docket Number 86-328-2, and they will become effective Jan. 4.

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USDA INCREASES THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE NATIONAL POULTRY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today amended the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) to strengthen efforts to prevent, identify and control certain poultry diseases.

The changes require new procedures for examining and testing poultry flocks that participate in the NPIP, including improved testing for *Salmonella enteritidis* in egg-type chicken breeding flocks. The revisions add requirements for isolation and testing of nonparticipating flocks before introducing the birds into a participating flock.

“The ultimate effect of our changes to the NPIP will be to help improve poultry breeding stock and hatchery products without overburdening participating producers with new procedures,” said Billy G. Johnson, deputy administrator for veterinary services in USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

The NPIP is a cooperative federal, state and industry effort to prevent and control egg-transmitted, hatchery-disseminated poultry diseases. States, flocks, hatcheries and dealers participating on a voluntary basis are required to meet disease control standards specified by the various programs within the NPIP.

The NPIP ensures that consumers are buying poultry products that have been produced under disease-prevention conditions, Johnson said.

The revised regulations were published as a proposal in the June 30 Federal Register, and comments were accepted until July 30. The final regulations are scheduled for publication in the Dec. 4 Federal Register and will become effective Jan. 4.

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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE AND USER MARKETING CERTIFICATE PAYMENT RATE FOR UPLAND COTTON

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3—John Stevenson, acting executive vice president of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation, today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-3.6 and 4.3-4.9, strength 24-25 grams per tex) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment (CCA) in effect from 5:00 p.m. today through 3:59 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10. The user marketing certificate payment rate announced today is in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, Dec. 4, through midnight Thursday, Dec. 10.

The Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, provides that the AWP may be further adjusted if: (a) the AWP is less than 115 percent of the current crop year loan rate for base quality upland cotton, and (b) the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth as quoted for Middling (M) 1-3/32 inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (USNE price) exceeds the Northern Europe (NE) price. The maximum allowable adjustment is the difference between the USNE price and the NE price.

A further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP may be made in accordance with this provision. The calculated AWP is 76 percent of the 1992 upland cotton base quality loan rate, and the USNE price exceeds the NE price by 4.87 cents per pound. Following are the relevant calculations:

I.	Calculated AWP	39.80 cents per pound
	1992 Base Loan Rate	52.35 cents per pound
	AWP as a Percent of Loan Rate	76
II.	USNE Price	58.35 cents per pound
	NE Price	<u>-53.48</u> cents per pound
	Maximum Adjustment Allowed	4.87 cents per pound

Based on a consideration of the U.S. share of world exports, the current level of cotton export sales and cotton export shipments, and other relevant data, no further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP will be made.

This week's AWP and coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price

NE Price	53.48
Adjustments:	
Average U.S. spot market location	11.82
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton	1.55
Average U.S. location	0.31
Sum of Adjustments	<u>-13.68</u>
Calculated AWP	39.80
Further AWP Adjustment	<u>- 0</u>
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE	39.80 cents/lb

Coarse Count Adjustment

NE Price	53.48
NE Coarse Count Price	<u>-49.45</u>
.....	4.03
Adjustment to SLM 1-1/32 inch cotton	<u>-3.95</u>
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT	0.08 cents/lb.

Because the AWP is below the 1991 and 1992 base quality loan rates of 50.77 and 52.35 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rate during this period is equal to the AWP, adjusted for the specific quality and location plus applicable interest and storage charges. The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates.

Because the AWP is below the 1992-crop loan rate, cash loan deficiency payments will be paid to eligible producers who agree to forgo obtaining a price support loan with respect to the 1992 crop. The payment rate is equal to the difference between the loan rate and the AWP. Producers are allowed to obtain a loan deficiency payment on a bale-by-bale basis.

The USNE price has exceeded the NE price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks and the AWP has not exceeded 130 percent of the 1992 crop year base quality loan rate in any week of the 4-week period. As a result, the user marketing certificate payment rate is 3.62 cents per pound. This rate is applicable for bales opened by domestic users and for cotton contracts entered into by exporters for delivery prior to September 30, 1993. Relevant data used in determining the user marketing certificate payment rate are summarized below:

Week	For the Friday through Thursday Period	USNE Current Price	NE Current Price	USNE Minus NE	Certificate Payment Rate 1/
1	Nov. 12, 1992	58.85	52.78	6.07	4.82
2	Nov. 19, 1992	58.30	52.69	5.61	4.36
3	Nov. 26, 1992	58.10	53.15	4.95	3.70
4	Dec. 3, 1992	58.35	53.48	4.87	3.62

1/ USNE price minus NE price minus 1.25 cents.

Next week's AWP, CCA and user marketing certificate payment rate will be announced at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 10.

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U.S. TOBACCO INDUSTRY TO BUY 473 MILLION LBS OF 1993 FLUE-CURED TOBACCO

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4—The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today that U.S. cigarette manufacturers plan to purchase 473 million pounds (farm sales weight) of 1993-crop flue-cured tobacco.

Keith Bjerke, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, said legislation requires major domestic cigarette manufacturers to report annually to USDA their intended purchases of flue-cured tobacco from U.S. auction markets and producers.

Data on intended purchases is used to determine USDA's annual flue-cured tobacco marketing quota based on the average annual flue-cured exports for the preceding three years and the amount of tobacco needed to attain reserve stock levels. The 1993 quota will be announced by Dec. 15.

Bjerke said annual flue-cured exports for 1990, 1991 and 1992 averaged 405.6 million pounds, up 11.9 million pounds from the 1989-91 average.

In 1992, manufacturers' intended purchases totaled 497.2 million pounds.

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USDA TO REDUCE VEGETABLE AND MAPLE SYRUP ESTIMATING PROGRAMS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service will curtail estimating activities for several vegetable programs and maple syrup because of budget constraints.

Vegetables reports in March, May, June, August, November, and December will be discontinued, while those in January, April, July, and October will be maintained with some changes. For example, the Vegetables—Annual Summary will be shifted from June to January and replace a report carrying preliminary yearly data. Data for the year just ending and revisions from the previous year will be reported in the January release.

Vegetables reports will publish estimates of fresh market vegetable acreage for harvest in the January, April, July, and October. Data on pickle stocks and cucumbers for pickles acreage, yield and production will be published in January. Intentions to plant vegetables for processing will be reported in April; yield and production forecasts for processing vegetables in September; and end-of-season estimates in January. Acreage estimates of asparagus will be reported in April. Acres of strawberries will be reported in January and July. Onion estimates, by season, will be reported in January, April, and July. Current year production of onions will be reported in September, and previous year revisions and disposition estimates for onions will be reported in July.

The monthly Celery report estimating plantings and area growing in Florida, California, New York, and Michigan will be discontinued effective in January 1993. Estimates of celery acreage for harvest in Florida and California will be published in the Vegetables reports in January, April, July, and October. Seasonal acreage, yield, and production estimates for Michigan and New York will be dropped, however, annual estimates in this series, including prices and value, will be published in the January Vegetables—Annual Summary.

Information on maple syrup disposition and price of the previous year's crop will be included in the June Crop Production report instead of November, thus eliminating one survey of the producers.

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NEW USDA SURVEYS TO ASSIST SHEEP INDUSTRY

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4—The U. S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service early next year will begin estimating raw wool stocks in the United States and publishing more data about lambs on feed, placements of lambs in feedlots, and marketings of lambs for slaughter.

For the raw wool stocks survey, NASS will contact about 800 wool warehouses, pools, mills, buyers, and processors in mid-January to develop official estimates. The nationwide NASS survey will use personal enumeration and telephone inquiries to collect the data. The U.S. Department of Commerce dropped a similar data-collection activity in 1988.

The wool stocks estimates will be published by NASS in its Wool and Mohair report March 30, 1993, and by USDA's Economic Research Service in the Cotton and Wool Situation and Outlook report in May. Estimates for the United States will deal with stocks of carpet and apparel wool and associated microns, and whether the wool is of foreign or domestic origin. Also data on stocks of tops and noils and mohair will be published.

Survey results will be used by USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service to help assess the effects of the National Wool Act Program on future wool and mohair producer payments.

NASS, in response to requests by the lamb feeding industry, will also expand its estimating program on sheep and lambs on feed for slaughter market. This information will help make orderly decisions on sheep marketing. Almost 70,000 operators in the United States will be contacted in the January segment of the survey. Subsamples of this group will be asked to participate in March and November. The number of lambs by weight groups will be estimated as the primary tool for projecting slaughter.

Estimates will be published January 29, March 23, and November 23, 1993, in the Sheep and Lambs on Feed report. Previously, NASS' sheep and lambs on feed estimates covered 25 major States in January. The new program will cover 16 major States in each of those three months.

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MEAT IMPORTS REALLOCATED FOR AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture R. Randall Green today announced Australia and New Zealand will be allowed to export more meat to the United States for the remainder of 1992 to offset shortfalls in shipments from other supplying countries.

This action modifies the current import limitations that were set under the Meat Import Act of 1979, which covers U.S. imports of fresh and frozen beef, veal, mutton and goat meat.

Australia will be allowed to ship 751.38 million pounds and New Zealand 455.72 million pounds to the United States in 1992. By late November U.S. meat imports from both Australia and New Zealand had reached the previous limits of 749.46 million pounds for Australia and 454.54 million pounds for New Zealand. Total 1992 U.S. imports of meats subject to the act are estimated at 1,311.1 million pounds.

In August, the United States signed voluntary restraint agreements with New Zealand and Australia that limited the quantity of certain meats that the two countries could ship into the United States in calendar year 1992. New Zealand agreed to limit its shipments to 446.8 million pounds and Australia agreed to limit its shipments to 736.8 million pounds.

However, the agreements allow the United States to reallocate any shortfall in imports from non-VRA countries. In November, the U.S. Department of Agriculture increased the total U.S. meat imports allowed from Australia to 749.46 million pounds and 454.54 million pounds from New Zealand.

VRAs are negotiated under authority of Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956.

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USDA PROPOSES REVISIONS TO GYPSY MOTH REGULATIONS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is proposing to revise its gypsy moth regulations to help prevent further spread of the pest.

The revisions will allow USDA to regulate the movement of Christmas trees and other trees without roots. The proposal also adds further restrictions on the interstate movement of outdoor household articles.

“All or parts of 19 states are currently designated as gypsy moth regulated areas,” said B. Glen Lee, deputy administrator for plant protection and quarantine with USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. “We believe the proposed revisions would help prevent the artificial spread of this pest to uninfested areas.”

The current gypsy moth regulations place quarantines on certain states because of gypsy moths, establish regulated areas within the quarantined states, and restrict the interstate movement of regulated articles and outdoor household articles from these regulated areas.

Notice of the proposal will be published in the Dec. 4 Federal Register. Comments will be accepted if they are received on or before Feb. 2, 1993. An original and three copies of written comments referring to docket 89-165 should be sent to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 804 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

Comments may be inspected at USDA, Room 1141-S, 14th St. and Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

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MADIGAN ANNOUNCES MORE U.S. AID FOR AFRICA, NEW A.I.D. NUTRITION PROGRAM

ROME, Dec. 7—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today announced the United States will provide \$32 million in additional food aid to victims of food shortages in sub-Saharan Africa.

The aid is being donated from stocks of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation through the World Food Program, and will provide approximately 93,000 metric tons of U.S. corn for use in Somalia, Kenya and other African countries where civil strife, drought and the needs of refugees have severely strained local food supplies.

Madigan made the announcement during an address here this morning to the International Conference on Nutrition, sponsored by the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization and World Health Organization. Madigan is leading the U.S. delegation at the conference.

In his address, Madigan called on developed nations to lead the battle against world hunger and malnutrition, citing steps that must be taken beyond emergency food donations.

"First among them must be a continued commitment to a successful end of the GATT talks," Madigan said. "By dismantling the barriers to world agricultural trade, we can strengthen agriculture worldwide, especially in developing countries."

Madigan also called on the world's nations to address the problem of micronutrient deficiency, which affects millions of men, women and children in many countries.

"Ending vitamin A, iodine and iron deficiency is within our grasp," Madigan said. "We can prevent childhood blindness, mental and physical retardation, or death caused by these deficiency diseases."

In the speech, Madigan also announced a new effort by the United States to attack micronutrient deficiency through a \$50 million program by the U.S. Agency for International Development called "Opportunities for Micronutrient Interventions." Under the program, AID will work directly with recipient nations to help solve the problem of micronutrient deficiency at the local level. Activities will focus on government-to-government training, consumer education, and implementing locally tailored programs with the goal of providing consumers with the resources and knowledge for obtaining a balanced diet.

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WALTER MERTZ GIVES HIS VIEW OF NUTRITION RESEARCH IN RETIREMENT LECTURE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8—Walter Mertz will present his final public lecture as director of the Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center on Tuesday, Dec. 15, at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center.

Mertz will be retiring after 23 years with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service and nearly 40 years of federal service.

In his lecture—"A Century of Human Nutrition Research and Beyond"—he will give a retrospective view of human nutrition research and comment on what he believes are the emerging critical issues in human nutrition.

As a member of the National Academy of Science's Food and Nutrition Board and chairman of a dietary advisory group to the World Health Organization, Mertz has played a key role in establishing Recommended Dietary Allowances for the world community.

Author of nearly 200 scientific articles and editor or contributor to several books, Mertz is recognized internationally as an authority on trace elements and vitamins in human nutrition. His early research established that the trace element chromium is necessary for normal sugar metabolism and is therefore essential for humans and animals.

NOTE TO EDITORS: The lecture will take place at 2:00 p.m. in the auditorium of Building 003, located on the west side of U.S. Rte. 1, just north of the Capital Beltway (Exit 25). The red-brick building, distinguished by its clock tower, is across Rte. 1 from the 14-story National Agricultural Library. For details, contact James C. Smith, Chief, Vitamin and Mineral Nutrition Laboratory, (301) 504-8351.

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SCIENTISTS STUDY INSECT RESISTANCE TO NATURAL PESTICIDE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8—A mix of pest control tactics may be the best bet to offset increasing insect resistance to the biological pesticide *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), a U.S. Department of Agriculture researcher and a university scientist propose in the December issue of *Science* magazine.

Bt, a soil bacterium that produces a number of toxins, has been used for 30 years as an alternative to chemical insecticides. When sprayed on crops, these toxins kill insect pests, but do not harm humans, animals or beneficial insects.

Insect resistance to Bt was “considered for many years to be remote,” wrote William H. McGaughey of USDA’s Agricultural Research Service and Mark E. Whalon of Michigan State University. At least eight insect species have been identified in either field or laboratory studies as capable of becoming resistant to Bt.

McGaughey found in 1985 at ARS’ U.S. Grain Marketing Research Laboratory in Manhattan, Kan., that the Indianmeal moth could develop resistance to Bt. Indianmeal moths attack stored grain and cereal products.

Resistance is a serious concern on transgenic plants that have been genetically engineered to produce Bt toxins within their own tissues. Such plants may provide better pest control, but they may also cause rapid development of resistance in pest populations.

McGaughey and Whalon suggest in the Nov. 27 issue of *Science* that several tactics may be needed to prevent or delay resistance in pest insects. Areas of untreated crops can be used to provide refuge for the survival of susceptible insects.

Other strategies could include rotation of Bt toxins, mixtures or sequences of toxins and varying the toxin dosage. In genetically engineered plants, it may be possible to vary the amount of toxin produced by the plant or limit production to certain parts of the plant. All of these tactics could play a role in an integrated pest management system to help head off resistance.

Although theories have been developed for managing insect resistance to Bt, there is little experimental data on their effectiveness. That’s where further research comes into play, said McGaughey and Whalon.

NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact William H. McGaughey, U.S. Grain Marketing Research Lab, USDA, ARS, Manhattan, Kan. 66502. Telephone (913) 776-2705.

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CAMPBELL SOUP CO. RECALLS SEVERAL CANNED SOUP AND FROZEN DINNER PRODUCTS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7—The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today that the Campbell Soup Company, a Camden, N.J., food-processing firm, is voluntarily recalling about 332,000 frozen dinners and about 423,000 cans of soup because some of the products may contain small pieces of glass.

The problem was discovered when pieces of glass were found in bags of rice purchased from an outside source used as an ingredient in the products.

The suspect products were distributed largely to the Western states, but some products may be found in retail food stores in at least 33 states and one U.S. territory: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin. Not all of the listed states have all of the products being recalled. Some of the product was also distributed to Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska. A small amount of product was exported to Mexico.

The company is recalling four frozen dinner products and three canned soup products. The product names, net weights, and codes (including recommended use-by date and production code) that appear on the package or can are:

- * Swanson Mexican Style Combination Dinner (13 1/4 oz.) with codes: JAN 94 EST 4G A22; FEB 94 EST 4G BJ2; FEB 94 EST 4G BL2; FEB 94 EST 4G BP2;

- * Swanson Hungry Man Mexican Style Dinner (20 oz.) with codes: JAN 94 EST 4G A42; FEB 94 EST 4G BE2; FEB 94 EST 4G BM2; FEB 94 EST 4G BR2;

- * Swanson Budget Mexican Style Meal (10 1/2 oz.) with code: FEB 94 EST 4G BB2;

- * Swanson Hungry Man Boneless Chicken Dinner (17 1/4 oz.) with codes: FEB 94 P133 BD2; FEB 94 P133 B-2;

- * Campbell's Chicken with Rice Soup (10 1/2 oz.) with code: OCT 94 P5 O562;

* Campbell's Chicken Gumbo Soup (10 3/4 oz.) with codes: OCT 94 P5 08E2; OCT 94 P5 08E3;

* Campbell's Home Cookin' Ready to Serve Chicken with Rice Soup (19 oz.) with code: OCT 94 P5 DAD3.

The code numbers may be on more than one line and may not be the only numbers embossed on the can or package.

"Because of the potential hazard, we strongly urge consumers to avoid eating these products," said Dr. Donald L. White, associate administrator of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service. "We urge consumers who have purchased any of the suspect products to return them unopened to the place of purchase."

USDA has received no complaints from consumers about any of the products.

Consumers with questions about the recall may phone the toll-free USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-800-535-4555. The Hotline can be reached from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Eastern time) Monday through Friday. This number also provides access to a telecommunications device for the hearing impaired.

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PHONE NUMBERS FOR INFORMATION ON CAMPBELL'S RECALL

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Meat and Poultry Hotline (1-800-535-4555) has received thousands of calls from consumers regarding a Dec. 7 recall of frozen dinners and canned soups by Campbell Soup Company. The Camden, N.J., food processing firm is voluntarily recalling about 332,000 frozen dinners and about 423,000 cans of soup.

Due to the heavy volume of calls, some consumers may have had trouble reaching the USDA food-safety experts who staff the Hotline.

Campbell Soup Company also has a special toll-free number where consumers can obtain information about this recall. That number is 1-800-872-0092.

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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Randall Green today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

- long grain whole kernels, 8.63 cents per pound;
- medium grain whole kernels, 7.81 cents per pound;
- short grain whole kernels, 7.78 cents per pound;
- broken kernels, 4.32 cents per pound.

Based upon these prevailing world market prices for milled rice, loan deficiency payment rates and gains from repaying price support loans at the world market price level are:

- for long grain, \$1.31 per hundredweight;
- for medium grain, \$1.22 per hundredweight;
- for short grain, \$1.23 per hundredweight.

The prices announced are effective today at 3 p.m. EST. The next scheduled price announcement will be made Dec. 15 at 3 p.m. EST.

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USDA SETS RELEASE DATES FOR 1993 FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE CIRCULARS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service will release the following time-sensitive circulars on these dates in 1993. The release time for all circulars is 3 p.m. Eastern time

Release Dates for 1993 FAS Circulars

January	4	Horticultural Products Review
	13	World Agricultural Production
	13	World Grain Situation and Outlook
	13	World Oilseed Situation and Outlook
	13	World Cotton Situation
	28	World Tobacco Situation
	29	World Poultry Situation

February	1	Horticultural Products Review
	11	World Agricultural Production
	11	World Grain Situation and Outlook
	11	World Oilseed Situation and Outlook
	11	World Cotton Situation
	25	World Tobacco Situation
March	1	Horticultural Products Review
	11	World Agricultural Production
	11	World Grain Situation and Outlook
	11	World Oilseed Situation and Outlook
	11	World Cotton Situation
	29	World Cocoa Situation
	31	World Tobacco Situation
	31	World Livestock Situation
April	1	Horticultural Products Review
	13	World Agricultural Production
	13	World Grain Situation and Outlook
	13	World Oilseed Situation and Outlook
	13	World Cotton Situation
	29	World Tobacco Situation
May	3	Horticultural Products Review
	12	World Agricultural Production
	12	World Grain Situation and Outlook
	12	World Oilseed Situation and Outlook
	12	World Cotton Situation
	27	World Tobacco Situation
June	1	Horticultural Products Review
	1	World Sugar Situation and Outlook
	11	World Agricultural Production
	11	World Grain Situation and Outlook
	11	World Oilseed Situation and Outlook
	11	World Cotton Situation
	30	World Coffee Situation
	30	World Tobacco Situation
	30	World Dairy Situation

July	1	Horticultural Products Review
	13	World Agricultural Production
	13	World Grain Situation and Outlook
	13	World Oilseed Situation and Outlook
	13	World Cotton Situation
	29	World Tobacco Situation
August	2	Horticultural Products Review
	12	World Agricultural Production
	12	World Grain Situation and Outlook
	12	World Oilseed Situation and Outlook
	12	World Cotton Situation
	24	World Poultry Situation
	26	World Tobacco Situation
September	1	Horticultural Products Review
	10	World Agricultural Production
	10	World Grain Situation and Outlook
	10	World Oilseed Situation and Outlook
	10	World Cotton Situation
	30	World Tobacco Situation
October	1	Horticultural Products Review
	13	World Agricultural Production
	13	World Grain Situation and Outlook
	13	World Oilseed Situation and Outlook
	13	World Cotton Situation
	28	World Tobacco Situation
	29	World Cocoa Situation
	29	World Livestock Situation
November	1	Horticultural Products Review
	10	World Agricultural Production
	10	World Grain Situation and Outlook
	10	World Oilseed Situation and Outlook
	10	World Cotton Situation
	29	World Tobacco Situation
	30	World Sugar Situation and Outlook

December	1	Horticultural Products Review
	10	World Agricultural Production
	10	World Grain Situation and Outlook
	10	World Oilseed Situation and Outlook
	10	World Cotton Situation
	22	World Coffee Situation
	30	World Tobacco Situation

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TINY SENSORS “TELL” FARMERS WHEN DAIRY COWS ARE SICK

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9—Dairy cows of the future will send out radio signals to alert a farmer when an animal is sick.

An animal's temperature will be transmitted every 15 minutes to a computer operating on the dairy farm, said Alan M. Lefcourt, a U.S. Department of Agriculture animal scientist, in a “health watch” system for dairy cows that can be built using off-the-shelf equipment.

“Changes in a cow's temperature patterns can signal the onset of diseases,” he said. “Our electronic system is so sensitive it can sense a problem in the absence of a detectable temperature rise or other clinical symptoms.”

Lefcourt said the electronic system, which he developed, has monitored 12 cows daily for two years and has been successful in catching the slightest blip in temperatures. He said he is talking to feedlots and dairy farmers about doing field tests on full-size herds to verify his studies at Beltsville, Md.

A tiny sensor in the cow takes temperature readings, Lefcourt said, adding that the sensor is placed surgically in an animal's body cavity or udder without harming the cow. Then, the readings are relayed by a radio transmitter to the computer.

An early alert of sick cows “would reduce the farmer's cost of treatment and increase the cure rate,” said Lefcourt, a biomedical engineer for USDA's Agricultural Research Service. He said the system's cost could be repaid in savings on medical bills and returns on milk production.

A dairy farmer also could install an alarm that would “automatically warn the farmer of an abrupt, relatively high rise in a cow's temperature,” he said.

“This could mean an attack of life-threatening acute mastitis that needs to be treated immediately.”

Lefcourt originally designed the computer-based system to detect mastitis, an infection of a cow’s udder. Mastitis costs U.S. dairy farmers \$2 billion annually for treatment and lost milk production.

A cow’s temperature also can be monitored “to detect when a cow is in heat, or estrous, and is ready to be bred,” he said.

“Currently, U.S. dairy farmers miss detecting estrous about half the time,” said Lefcourt at the Milk Secretion and Mastitis Laboratory in Beltsville. This mistake costs farmers over \$200 million annually, he said.

Of all the ways the dairy farmer can use the sensor, he said, perhaps the critical one is to detect subclinical mastitis. None of the usual acute mastitis symptoms, like a hard udder, are evident and rarely does the animal’s temperature rise.

Subclinical mastitis is insidious because it often causes a practically unnoticeable drop in milk production per cow “that can add up to a lot of milk lost if a whole herd becomes infected,” he said. “Suddenly, the farmer realizes that milk production is down to 5 to 10 or even 20 percent.”

Details about setting up the system are available from Lefcourt’s office. He said use of a radio transmitter would require a Federal Communications Commission license.

NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact Alan M. Lefcourt, biomedical engineer, Milk Secretion and Mastitis Laboratory, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, USDA, ARS, Beltsville, Md. 20705. Telephone: (301) 504-8451.

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